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REVIEWS

Narrative of an Expedition into the Interior of Africa, by the River Niger, in the Steam Vessels Quorra and Alburkah, in 1832, 1833, and 1834. By Macgregor Laird and R. A. K. Oldfield, Surviving Officers of the Expedition. 2 vols. Bentley.

THE most successful, perhaps, of modern travellers, was Clapperton. He had the good fortune to cross the great desert in safety, from the shores of the Mediterranean; and, having reached the mysterious Sûdan, or Negroland, to penetrate westward as far as Sokatoo, the capital of the Felatals. Again, starting from the coast of Guinea, he proceeded north-eastwards to the same capital, thus completing a route across the African continent in one of the most important, and, to Europeans, least known directions. In his last journey he crossed the river Quorra at Bousa, the very place where the adventurous Mungo Park had unhappily perished. Thirty years after the death of this great traveller, R. Lander, embarking on the Quorra above Bousa, descended it to the sea, and thus solved the problem which had so long baffled and perplexed the learned. The light thrown on the interior of Africa by these persevering travellers, went far to disperse the clouds of hypothetical speculation which had previously obscured it; and, much being the case, we cannot but feel surprised that Mr. Laird, having ascended the Quorra, should entitle his narrative 'A Journey into the Interior of Africa by the river Niger.' Does he mean seriously to intimate his opinion, that the river called by the ancients Niger, or, rather, Nigir, and described by them as rising in Mount Atlas, and losing itself in the desert, is identical with the river which he, or his colleagues, ascended from the sea to Rabba? There was a time, when the ambiguous or ill-defined descriptions of the ancients might be plausibly forced into connexion with the confused accounts of the Arab writers; but the discoveries of Park, Clapperton and Lander, have, in a great measure, put an end to hypothesis and arbitrary interpretation, as far as the geography of Sûdan is concerned. There are but few scholars now, who will maintain that the Nigir of the ancients was on the south side of the Saharâ, or who will refrain from smiling when they read of a voyage of discovery on the Niger. This, however, is debatable ground, and we must rather occupy ourselves with the real interest of the voyage than with its spurious distinctions.

"It will excite no surprise (says the author), that the splendid discovery of Lander was hailed with, if possible, more enthusiasm by mercantile than by scientific men. The long-sought-for highway into Central Africa was at length found, as open by the Niger as that by the Rhine, the Danube, the Mississippi, or the Orinoko, is into their respective countries. To the merchant it offered a boundless field for enterprise; to the manufacturer, an extensive market for his goods; and to the energy and ardour of youth, it presented the irresistible charms of novelty, danger and adventure. It must not, however, be supposed that these were the sole motives that actuated the promoters of that expedition, the proceedings of which are related in the following pages: other and nobler objects were connected with them."

"Urged by such considerations, the author, in conjunction with several other gentlemen of Liver-

pool, determined to form a company, whose first objects should be to open a direct communication with the interior of Africa; and, if this were successful, to establish a permanent settlement at the junction of the Tchadda and Niger, for the purpose of collecting the various products of the country."

Lander encouraged, no doubt with sincerity, the sanguine expectations of the company. Two steamers were built for the expedition, of which he was to take the command; one named the *Quorra*, was 112 feet in length, the other, only 70 feet long, was constructed entirely of wrought iron, and was called the *Alburkah*—"a Houssa word," quoth our author, "signifying blessing." The expression *el-barakah* is, in fact, Arabic, and, with a little freedom of translation, may be rendered "the Good-luck." The expedition, consisting of the two steamers and the *Columbine*, a fine brig of 200 tons, left the port of Liverpool on the 19th of July, 1832. On this occasion all hands were mustered on the deck of the *Quorra*.

"The crew (says Mr. Laird) were all picked men from twenty-five to thirty-five years of age; and little did I think, as I beheld their athletic and powerful frames, that in a few months the only survivors of us all would be myself and three others."

The incidents of the voyage out are not of sufficient interest to detain us. The *Quorra* proved to be a very heavy sailer, and it was found necessary to work by steam along the coast of Guinea from Sierra Leone, where the vessel called for a supply of Kroomen. Before any engagement was made with these Swiss of the Guinea coast, the nature of the service was explained to them; and our author was much struck, he assures us, by the simplicity and manliness (and, he might have added, the nautical polish) of their answers. "Englishman go to debil, Krooman go with him," was their general reply. As frequent mention is made of the Kroomen in our author's pages, we think it may not be amiss to lay before our readers an extract explanatory of their origin:—

"The Kroo country extends from Simon River along the coast to Cape Palmas, and from thence to Cape Lahoo. The inhabitants of that district consist of two distinct classes, namely, Kroomen and Fishmen; the former being the best axemen and servants on shore, and the latter excelling as boatmen and sailors. The dexterity of the Fishmen in the water is quite astonishing. They avail themselves of their superior skill in this respect to waylay the Kroomen on their return from Sierra Leone in the small canoes in which they are accustomed to make the passage along the coast laden with goods, the produce of their wages. The Fishmen exact a tribute from the Kroomen when passing their shores; and if their demands be not complied with, they will upset their canoes, and from their superior agility in the water generally manage to secure the greater portion of the cargoes. In Sierra Leone they inhabit a small village close to Free Town, and keep themselves apart from the emancipated negroes, on whom they look down with most sovereign contempt. Their mode of life is very peculiar. Their own country producing barely sufficient to support them, every Krooman or Fishman leaves home at the age of thirteen or fourteen, under the care and patronage of a headman, who conducts him to Sierra Leone and takes him on board of any ship in which he may happen to be employed on the coast, with the rest of the boys who may have been placed under his management, and who generally amount to eight or ten in number. The headman receives their wages, keeps them in order, flogs them when required to do

so, and after a certain period they are at liberty to work on their own account. It is in fact a regular system of apprenticeship."

Three months after leaving Liverpool, the expedition arrived at the mouth of the river Nun. The bar was crossed with some difficulty; but what threw the most inauspicious gloom over this stage of the enterprise, and awakened the most painful forebodings, was the death of the Captain of the *Quorra* and of one of the engineers as soon as the vessel was within the river. Nevertheless, the steamers proceeded to ascend the stream, the *Columbine* being anchored to await their return, within reach of the sea breezes. For a distance of thirty miles up the river, there was no land, nor even mud, visible; the mangrove trees alone marking the channel. The inhabitants of this swampy country had a most miserable appearance, being covered with ulcers, guinea worms, and cutaneous eruptions. The river, as it was ascended, grew wider, the banks were higher, and thick woods of stately trees succeeded to mangrove thickets. Eboe, about 160 miles up the river, was the first town of any importance reached by our voyagers; and there they deemed it advisable to make a display of their finery. Of a scene so droll, we cannot think of offering any but the original description:—

"Preparations were now commenced for our visit to King Obie. The launch and other boats were manned by Kroomen, dressed in kilts and velvet caps, an uniform expressly intended for gala-days; and at 10 A.M. we proceeded on shore in state to pay our respects to the king. Mr. Lander in a general's uniform, with a feather in his cocked-hat that almost reached the ground, Mr. Jordan in a colonel's uniform, and Lieutenant Allen in his own, led the van, and attracted so much of the natives' attention, that Dr. Briggs and myself almost regretted that we had not visited Monmouth-street before our departure from England.

"Preceded by old Pascoe, Jowdie, and some other men who had accompanied Mr. Lander on his former journey, and who were now returning in triumph to the scene of their former exploits, dressed in soldiers' jackets and military caps, blowing trumpets and beating drums, accompanied by King Boy and about forty Eboe canoes emulating them in their discordant noises, we advanced up the narrow creek more like merry-andrews than sensible people; and after a row of about three quarters of a mile, in one of the hottest days I ever experienced, we landed at the upper end of the town amongst a great assemblage of people of both sexes. From our landing we had still more than half a mile to walk, surrounded by a mob of about a thousand people armed with all manner of muskets, spears, cutlasses, bayonets and knives fastened on the ends of poles. The heat of the weather and the stench of the place were quite overpowering; and the natives' pressing round us to touch the skin of a white man required the exercise of all our good temper and forbearance to withstand."

We should not be surprised, if even among the semi-barbarous Africans there were found to be advantages in a sober, sensible, and modest demeanour. Every attempt to play on the feelings or the ignorance of rude, uneducated people, has usually the misfortune to calculate on and call into activity their worst passions, which are apt to recoil on the contriver of the artifice. Among the curiosities of Eboe the most conspicuous was a fat woman, who could not be taken on board the *Quorra*, because the foreyard was not strong enough to hoist her in. She was sup-

posed to weigh at least twenty-five stone, and shaded her ample charms beneath a hat five feet in diameter. The population in the delta of the river, from the sea to Eboe, did not appear to exceed four thousand adults. Of this place, and of its trade, the following is our author's description:—

"The town of Eboe stands by the side of a creek running parallel with the Niger, and in the flooded season communicating with it at both ends. On a rough estimate, the town consists of eight hundred to a thousand houses; and allowing on an average six people to a house, will give the amount of population, two-thirds at least of which may be considered as under fourteen years of age. The inhabitants are the most enterprising and industrious traders on the Niger. The town itself with its immediate vicinity is unhealthy, owing to the swampy nature of the ground: we found but few old people of either sex, and a great number of young men who appeared debilitated and aged.

"The staple trade of Eboe consists of slaves and palm-oil. The value of the former varies according to the demand on the coast; but the average value of a lad of sixteen may be taken at sixty shillings, and that of a woman at something more.

"Palm-oil is produced in immense quantities about Eboe, and is collected in small gourd, each capable of containing from two to four gallons, from which it is emptied into trade puncheons. Some of these, belonging to vessels in the Bonny, I saw in canoes at Eboe; but generally, the gourds are taken in large canoes to a market-place on the Bonny branch of the Niger; which branch being dry in the dry season, the Eboe oil then finds its way through the Brass creek to the Bonny. • •

"The collection of palm-oil is lazily and indolently followed. The trouble of catching a man is trifling—that of manufacturing a ton of oil trifling still, but considerably more; the price of both is about the same: can it be wondered at then, that the production of oil does not increase more rapidly? It is some matter of surprise to me that where there is such a brisk demand for slaves it is manufactured at all. The capture of a man partakes of the exhilarating nature of a hunt, while the collection of palm-oil is devoid of excitement, and becomes the sober tedium of business: this affords nothing to satiate the appetite for cruelty common to man in his natural uncivilized state—that affords him ample gratification, for slave-hunting is pre-eminently cruel. Of all the baits which have been employed by the great tempter of mankind, that of buying and selling flesh and blood has been the most subtle and successful; and if it has triumphed over the minds of enlightened and conscientious men in our own country, can we wonder that it is irresistible among savages?"

Abundant as palm oil is at present at Eboe, it might be easily obtained, according to Mr. Laird, in much greater quantities. He calculated that not above a twentieth of the natural produce is collected. But so long as the slave trade exists, it is vain to look for the development of the industry and commerce of those countries. While the practice of kidnapping continues, how can it be expected that the natives will venture to explore the palm forests? Let them have security first, and we doubt not that industry will follow in due time.

At a little distance above Eboe, large branches issue from the river to Benin and Bonny; and higher up the Quorra is a noble stream a mile and half wide. The scenery continually improved, and presented an exhilarating variety to the notice of our voyagers, heartily tired of the monotony of the delta. But the fatal taint of disease was on board, and the affliction had already become too serious to admit of alleviation from cheerfulness of scene. Fifteen out of thirty-seven men died within a few days, and nearly all were indisposed. But the sight of the mountains which stretched across the river a little higher up, gave hopes of a better climate, and helped to prevent the men from yielding to feelings of despair. They had by this time reached the town of Attah, which is picturesquely seated

on a hill, overhanging the river in some places, with cliffs 300 feet in height. Of this place Mr. Laird observes:—

"It is healthy, and the only place we have yet seen in the river where a European could possibly exist for any length of time. It has many natural advantages, and on some future day will be a place of great importance. Situated as it is above the alluvial soil, and at the entrance to the valley of the Niger, it commands at present the whole trade of the interior; which trade, although trifling at present, it requires no prophet to foresee will at some time hereafter be immense."

To men who needed amusement, the following novel and spirited exhibition must have been extremely grateful:—

"One day, while we lay at anchor off the town, I witnessed one of the most ingenious ways of killing an alligator that could be imagined. One of these huge creatures was discovered basking on a bank in the river, a short distance ahead of our vessels. He was observed by two natives in a canoe, who immediately paddled to the opposite side of the bank, and having landed, crept cautiously towards him. As soon as they were near the animal, one of the natives stood up from his crouching position, holding a spear about six feet long, with which one blow he struck through the animal's tail into the sand. A most strenuous contest immediately ensued; the man with the spear holding it in the sand as firmly as his strength allowed him, and clinging to it as it became necessary to shift his position with the agility of a monkey; while his companion occasionally ran in as opportunity offered, and with much dexterity gave the animal a thrust with his long knife, retreating at the same moment from within reach of its capacious jaws as it whirled round upon the extraordinary pivot which his companion had so successfully placed in its tail. The battle lasted about half an hour, terminating in the slaughter of the alligator, and the triumph of his conquerors, who were not long in cutting him into pieces and loading their canoes with his flesh, which they immediately carried to shore and retailed to their countrymen. It is evident that the success of this plan depended on the nerve and dexterity of the man who pinned the animal's tail to the ground; and his contortions and struggles to keep his position were highly ridiculous and entertaining."

Above Attah, or Iddoh (as it is written in Mr. Oldfield's journal), the river forces its way through the chain of mountains to which our author gives the name of Kong, but whether he learned that name from the natives, or borrowed it from our maps, he does not inform us. These mountains have all flat summits, of equal height, their elevation being apparently from 2500 to 3000 feet above the river. They are probably composed of sandstone resting on granite, of which latter rock large masses were found in the vicinity of the river. The varied scenery of the mountains seemed to our wearied voyagers quite enchanting. At the entrance to this part of the river is the town of Bocqua, where a fair is held on a sand-bank every ten days, to which some thousands of people resort, many of them coming distances of two or three hundred miles. They lamented exceedingly that our voyagers would not take men (that is, slaves) instead of ivory. The large canoes had each a pony on board, intended obviously for the despatch of business on landing. The passage through the mountains being effected, a new scene immediately presented itself:—

"In the morning we were again under weigh, and a few minutes afterwards opened one of the noblest reaches that imagination could have conceived. An immense river, about three thousand yards wide, extending as far as the eye could reach, lay before us, flowing majestically between its banks, which rose gradually to a considerable height, and were studded with clumps of trees and brushwood, giving them the appearance of a gentleman's park; while the smoke rising from different towns on its banks, and the number of canoes floating on its bosom, gave it an aspect of security and peace far beyond any

African scene I had yet witnessed. The confluence of the Shary was just in sight, and a range of low hills on the northern bank trended east-north-east, while on the western bank of the Niger were two remarkable isolated table-lands of a romantic and beautiful appearance, giving a finish to a picture to which no description can do adequate justice."

The ascent of the river, from the sea to its junction with the Shary, had occupied a month, and Christmas day was spent by Mr. Laird and his companions in a novel situation, at the confluence of two great rivers, of equal magnitude, and flowing through regions which had long been the object of curiosity to the learned world. The Quorra had run aground, and it was deemed advisable to cover her over, in order to await patiently the rising of the waters, which was still distant. The *Alurkah* lay at anchor about six miles further up the stream.

In this position two months were spent. A market established on a sandbank, some miles paid to the neighbouring villages, and received from the natives in return, and an ineffectual attempt to explore the mountains, were all the means that could be devised to beguile the tedious hours. A part of the time passed at the mouth of the Shary, left no traces in the memory of our author:—sickness blotted it out from his mind, and made many dark gaps in the consciousness of all. More than half of his companions had by this time perished; the survivors retained little strength or spirit; and the depression occasioned by illness was rendered worse by the contemplated failure of the expedition. Among themselves, nevertheless, the natives had plenty of trade; and Mr. Laird bears very candid testimony to the merits of a country where he suffered so much, and to the character of its inhabitants.

"Both banks of the river are thickly studded with towns and villages. I could count seven from the place where we lay aground; and between Eboe and the confluence of the rivers there cannot be less than forty, generally occurring every two or three miles. The principal towns are Attah and Addakadda; and averaging the inhabitants at one thousand for each town and village, will, I think, very nearly give the population of the banks. It may be rather below the mark.

"The general character of the people is much superior to that of the inhabitants of the swampy country between them and the coast. They are shrewd, intelligent and quick in their perception, milder in their dispositions, and more peaceable in their habits. The security of life and property is evidently greater among them: though it is still sufficiently precarious to prevent the inhabitants from living in isolated situations, nor will any of them venture upon the river after sunset in small canoes. Agriculture is extensively followed, and Indian corn and other grain are raised with little labour and less skill on the part of the cultivators. Tobacco is grown sparingly, and when dried and made up for sale, costs one hundred cowries, or one penny, per pound. • •

"The river abounds in fish to a degree that is almost inconceivable, and the inhabitants of the banks are expert and persevering fishermen. They make immense nets of grass, which they use as seines with great dexterity. They are very careful of their nets after using them, and stretch them on poles to be dried by the sun, exactly as our fishermen do. The fish are split by them and gutted, then they are dried by the smoke of a wood fire, and form a farinaceous food their principal means of subsistence.—Fruits are not plentiful on the banks of the river, plantains, bananas, limes, tamarinds, a species of plum, and pine-apples, constitute the whole. The latter are exceedingly scarce, and the former by means abundant.

"The intercourse and trade between the towns on the banks is very great, (I was surprised to learn from Dr. Briggs that there appeared to be twice as much traffic going forward here as in the upper part of the Rhine,) the whole population on the Niger being eminently of a commercial character, and

women, and in slaves, everything else, say the truth, 'Bocqua,' centre of this tion is held, and Attah, and those from on the north country over from the up picture, beauty of which the goods, chief twenty-five on forty to six money, not medium, and be taken at

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women, and children carrying on trade. The traffic in slaves, cloth, and ivory is confined to the men; everything else being left to the other sex, who, to say the truth, are far the most difficult to deal with.

"Boqua, or Hickory, as the natives call it, is the centre of this traffic; and a fair of three days' duration is held there every ten days, attended by Eboe and Attah, and even Bonny traders from the south, and those from Eggo, Cuttum-Curaffee, and Fundah on the north, besides great numbers from the interior country on both banks of the river. The traders from the upper country bring cloths of native manufacture, beads, ivory, rice, straw-hats, and slaves, all of which they sell for cowries, and buy European goods, chiefly Portuguese and Spanish. About twenty-five large canoes passed us every ten days, on their way to this market, each containing from forty to sixty people. The trade is carried on by money, not by barter: cowries are the circulating medium, and their sterling value on an average may be taken at one shilling per thousand."

The death of Dr. Briggs, which took place at the end of February, deprived Mr. Laird of the only consolation which remained to him, and determined him to seek change of scene, at whatever cost of bodily exertion. He, therefore, proceeded in his boat up the Shary, in his way to the town of Fundah. Having ascended the river for six or seven days, he entered a creek, from the extremity of which a land journey of ten miles conducted him to Fundah. His sufferings during this voyage, from exposure to the rain at night, and to the scorching rays of the sun by day, were of the severest nature. The latter torture he compares to the agony of being roasted alive at a slow fire. He entered Fundah at midnight; an immense crowd still waiting outside the walls to receive him. His interview with the king may be best related in his own words:—

"In the afternoon I was visited by the king, who was attended by a great number of eunuchs and a cavalcade of about a dozen horsemen. He was splendidly dressed in silk and velvet robes, and appeared to be a man of immense size. His countenance is by no means prepossessing, particularly his eyes, which are of a dirty red colour, having a sinister and foreboding expression. I presented him with a brass-mounted sword, an umbrella five feet in diameter, highly ornamented, a brace of pistols, and several other things, and then informed him through my interpreter that I had come from a great distance to look at him in the face, and to hold a good palaver with him; that his messengers had informed me it was his desire to see the face of a white man, and trusting to his good faith, I had come, though ill and unable to walk; that I was anxious to give him our goods for ivory, and had brought with me a great quantity for that purpose.

"Having finished my speech, he rose, and said in the Houssa language, that he was glad to see the face of a white man—it was what he had long wished for; that he had abundance of ivory, and that all that he had was mine: to which sentiments twelve grey-headed negroes, who appeared to form his privy council, bowed assent."

"In the evening I had a visit from a man whose face I thought was not new to me, and a lady who assured me she was the king's mother, and to whom it was intimated that I should give a present. A looking-glass and a cake of Windsor soap satisfied her, but not her companion, who became abusive, and was at length bundled off by my Kroomen."

"On the following morning I was carried to the king's house to return his visit, but was only allowed to enter the outer court-yard, which is about forty feet wide, with a verandah on the side next to the house. Under this verandah I was placed, and in a short time the very man who had been turned out of my hut by my Kroomen the night before came and stood down by my side. After some conversation, I asked for the king; on which he said that he was the king! This was too much for me to believe, until he went through a gateway and returned in a few minutes with his stomacher and his splendid robes on. After laughing heartily at my astonishment, he asked for the carpet on which I was seated, and

which I refused him, having no other. After some angry words on both sides, he went off in a pet, and I returned to my hut in any but a pleasant state of mind. On inquiry of the owner of my hut, he informed me, and I afterwards found it to be the case, that on all great occasions it is customary for the king and his attendants to puff themselves out to a ridiculous size with cotton wadding; and this fully explained the mistake I was under with regard to the king's identity. On his first visit he appeared to be an immense-sized personage, and could not even rise from his seat without assistance. When he visited me *incog.* he was a raw-boned, active-looking man."

The palace of the king of Fundah is an immense assemblage of circular huts, covering a space of nine or ten acres, and enclosed by a mud wall fifteen feet high. Two of these huts, partitioned from the remainder, were allotted to our traveller. How long Mr. Laird remained at Fundah, we are unable to collect from his narrative. He lingered there probably a month or more. The king would not allow him the means of effecting his departure. At length he hit on a notable expedient to awe the mind of his black tyrant. As he could not make the trial of strength, he cunningly brought him of the extreme of weakness—superstition, and gave out that he was about to make a grand Fetish, to discover whether he was to return to his own country or not. On the appointed evening an immense crowd assembled to witness the solemnity. The king, besides his curiosity to see the white man's Fetish, felt a particular interest in the result. The hour is arrived, and behold! four fine rockets ascend, and while the black concourse are wrapt in wonder at the spectacle, blue lights are burned, turning their amazement into the deepest consternation. But what was all this compared to the pocket compass, which invariably pointed to the white man's home? The king was unable to resist the impression made on him by this Fetish, or conjuration, and he allowed Mr. Laird to depart. Gentle reader, we relate this story as we find it.

On his return to the vessels, Mr. Laird was astonished at learning that Lander had gone down the river to the sea; and as the stream had risen considerably by this time, he made up his mind to return himself also with the vessels. He had not descended far, however, when, on the 10th of July, he met Mr. Lander on his way up. It was then arranged that Mr. Laird should return to the coast in the *Quorra*, while Lander, in the *Alburkah*, should try to ascend the river to Boussa. We, therefore, here quit the journal of Mr. Laird, and attach ourselves to that of Mr. Oldfield, the medical officer and journalist of the *Alburkah*, for with this vessel we mean to continue the exploration of the interior. On this occasion the *Alburkah* entered the river Shary, and ascended it about 100 miles, but there was little information gained by this exploration. The natives everywhere sullenly refused to hold intercourse with the strangers, who were forced to return no wiser and no richer than they went. The river which Mr. Laird calls the Shary, is invariably called the Chadda by Mr. Oldfield, but neither gentleman informs us where he learned the name which he respectively prefers. As to the popular accounts respecting the sources of this river, the following observations of Mr. Laird appear to us to be at once brief, sensible, and conclusive:—

"The subject which interested me most, and on which I made many enquiries from every person whom I thought likely to give me information, was the course of the Shary. The answers invariably were, that it came from Lake Tchad; and one man, a native of Kooka, offered to take me up there in twelve days without changing the canoe. The latter expression struck me forcibly, and I cross-questioned the man closely; but he adhered to his statement,

and enumerated a long list of towns on the banks of the river. This evidence, though strong, is by no means conclusive; the natives are such inveterate liars, that no dependance can be placed on any accounts they may give; and from the experience which I have had of their mendacious propensities, I do not allow their accounts to weigh for a moment against the following reasons, which induce me to think that it has its rise in another and very different quarter.

"The water of the Shary is colder than that of the Niger.

"The rise of the river commences sooner and more suddenly than the Niger.

"There is little trade upon the Shary in comparison with the Niger, which, if it communicated with the sea of Soudan, would naturally be immense.

"From the three first reasons, I should think that its rise is in a mountainous country, and that that country lies very near the equator. Probably the same range of hills that gives birth to the Cameroons, Malimba, and other large rivers, throws off, on its opposite declivity, the sources of the Shary."

In the ascent of the *Quorra* above its junction with the Shary, there was no difficulty or obstruction of any kind encountered. The breadth of the stream was undiminished, being in general, as Mr. Oldfield assures us, 3500 yards. Numerous islands intercepted the view of the banks, so that the voyagers were unable to ascertain the position of the tributaries flowing into the *Quorra*, of which they understood that there were many. Sometimes entering channels but recently filled with water, they forced their way in the steam vessel through long grass, with numerous shells adhering to it. Of the density of the population on this part of the river, and the harmless curiosity of the natives, some idea may be formed from the following extracts:—

"From the great number of towns that we passed, I am inclined to suppose that the population must be very great indeed. No sooner does the traveller come in sight of one town, than he discovers three or four, and sometimes five others. The natives were seen in every direction, in crowds as thick together as on market-days in England, gazing at us with the greatest astonishment. The country was covered with shrubs and trees, of rich and beautiful foliage. On the east side, as far as the eye could extend, regular rows of palm-trees were seen; while on both sides were wide, extensive plains."

"Early on the 2nd of September, a great number of the natives were assembled on the banks, gazing at the vessel; and about eight o'clock, upwards of thirty canoes were paddling around us, looking at the equipments of the vessel with astonishment. They appeared to possess more curiosity than any of the natives we had yet seen. Several of them said, they had heard of a white man's boat, but they did not think it was so large. Their own canoes were some of the largest we had seen, being upwards of fifty feet long, by two and a half or three feet wide, with flat bottoms. The natives are powerful, robust-looking men, and stand up in their canoes two abreast when using their paddles, which exceed six feet in length."

"After passing Eggangine, or Batchinke, I was quite astonished to see so many huts extending a considerable distance up the river. Eleven large and populous towns may be seen within a stone's throw of each other: they are all under the dominion of Ederesa, who is the legitimate king, but tributary to the Felatoba."

"We were much amused this morning on being gazed at by thousands of the natives, some of whom, in order to see us and examine the vessel, had brought a trifling dash,—such as a few eggs, a fowl, or some yams. During our journey up, we had been the wonder of multitudes, men, women, and children, who never before had seen a white man: relying upon our passive disposition, they flocked on board in such numbers as to become an actual nuisance. Our interpreter, Al Hodge, hit upon a most ingenious method of diminishing their numbers—by not allowing any one to come on board unless he brought with him a dash of wood. The consequence

of this was, that before we had risen from our beds, large quantities of wood were waiting alongside, which, together with a canoe-load from the king, enabled us to get under weigh by nine o'clock, and saved us a day cutting wood, which always occupied so much of our time."

On the 18th of September the *Alburkah* anchored before Rabbah, in lat 9° 14' N., between five and six hundred miles from the sea. The population of the town seemed to be, as Mr. Oldfield expresses it, immense; but we shall reserve his description of the place till another occasion, and content ourselves, for the present, with having conducted our readers to the farthest point reached by the expedition. It has been our object, in the preceding columns, to lay before our readers a succinct abstract of the voyage, deferring all critical remarks and reflections till a future paper. We cannot, however, close these volumes, without observing that they are, throughout, most negligently written—a fault which is less excusable, inasmuch as a delay of three years in their publication has afforded ample time for their correction and careful amendment. Mr. Laird's journal evinces, indeed, somewhat more ability than Mr. Oldfield's, but, unfortunately, both the gentlemen seem as little disposed to weigh their sentiments as their language. We shall return to this subject.

The Spas of Germany. By the Author of 'St. Petersburg.' 2 vols. Colburn.

THERE is a fashion in everything; and the current of fashion, at present, runs very powerfully in favour of "German Spas." On the efficacy of medicinal springs great diversities of opinion prevail. According to some, they are either wholly inefficacious, or they owe their healing properties to appreciable ingredients, everywhere imitable by chemical process. Some more freely admit the cures obtained from a residence at watering places, but attribute them, with much plausibility, to change of air and of habits of life, to the exercise incidental to a long journey, and to a temporary cessation of those life-wearing cares and gnawing anxieties, which eat the heart of man, in the laborious employments of a "work-a-day world." A third set of opiners not only assume medicinal properties to be inherent in the waters themselves, but are potent believers in some mystical force in them, independent of their chemical ingredients, and flowing from an inappreciable something in their mode of combination, derived from the hand of nature, which, in these cases, snatches "a grace beyond the reach of art." Who, then, shall decide when doctors disagree? Medical facts are of so mixed a nature, and derive so large a portion of their meaning from the minds to which they address themselves, that this proverbial difference of doctors can seldom be satisfactorily adjusted by direct efforts at experimental proof; and it is to the decisions of time alone, that the public can safely appeal in all such litigated questions. But time, it must be confessed, has, with a very few exceptions, hitherto decided in succession against the claims of individual spas, as far as respects the larger part of their imputed efficacy; and has dismissed the lovers of the marvellous to newer and less proved "sources" for their gratification.

For our own parts, we do not think that there is much general reasoning applicable to the subject. There are spas and spas; some abounding in cognizable matters of undisputed influence on the living structure; others deriving their supposed utility in disease from their rare and extreme purity from foreign ingredients. With respect to the former, there is nothing unreasonable in attributing to them powers analogous to those of the drugs, which they are known to hold in solution; while, in regard to the latter, if

the presumption is not equally strong in their favour, it cannot be denied that the simple element does exercise some influence on the organization; nor can it be maintained that its use, however long continued, must be utterly indifferent to health. Whether any particular Spa, however, ranges under one or the other of these heads, and in what degree it partakes of the essentials of either, are questions of specific examination; so that in the matter of Spas, each tub must be suffered to stand on its own bottom.

The utility of Spas, however, is for the larger part confined to the wealthy; and, in their case, if to a residence in the pure air of a healthy locality, be added the adoption of unaccustomed early hours, and wholesome habits, (sometimes enforced by fashion in a fashionable watering place,) the efficacy of the spring (whatever it may be) will be powerfully aided by this happy influence; whereas, to those to whom a Spa is only a new scene for the practice of habitual dissipation, the spring, though it were the Pool of Bethesda itself, would do nothing towards the restoration of impaired health.

But whatever may be the value of medicinal waters, general or special, the German Spas, as we have said, are, at the present moment, pre-eminently the fashion, and absolutely divide the world with Jupiter Hamman; and in this state of the public mind, the appearance of a work on the subject, ornamented as Dr. Granville's work is with numerous plates and vignettes, must be fairly entitled to the double praise of being "neat and appropriate." Moreover, we may add, that we are not among those who would defy the fashion for foreign travel, whether it be for the purposes of health, of instruction, or of pure amusement. If the present condition of the public mind be more enlightened than it was at the conclusion of the revolutionary war, the result is in a great degree consequent on the prevalence of foreign touring. Notwithstanding the many absurdities committed by the English on the continent, or imported by them on their return into England, much information has forced itself, even on the least observant; while the more educated and judicious of our travellers have, when their travels are over, become nuclei of civilizing and humanizing speculation, of art, of science, and of general knowledge, and have spread on every side new feelings and ideas most necessary to the well being of the community at large. The evils incidental to this, (in common with all other human combinations,) are open to satire and obvious to caricature; but the good is unobtrusive and intimate in its workings; it is manifested only to those who look below the surface, and can observe and think for themselves.

Of the work before us, then, we were predisposed to think favourably; and if the execution does not come up to expectation, we must still admit that we have perused many of less merit. It is not strictly a professional work, though written by a physician; neither is it merely a traveller's tour; thus, as far as the public is concerned, to whom the work is addressed, may be judicious; but as a matter of reputation, we think otherwise. It cannot be denied that there is much useful and amusing information set before the reader; but the medical parts of the work are much too popular to be of great service to those who would consult it with a scientific object; and the author's speculations are sometimes so vague and mystical, as to detract from the general weight of his opinions. Thus, in discussing the merits of the baths at Wildbad, we find page upon page of speculation, that completely baffles our powers of conception to extract a meaning from. The style of reasoning is quite as inconclusive as that of the homeopathsists, against

whose absurdities the author has judiciously protested.

In a similar spirit, when describing the gush and upward spring of the waters at Carlsbad, he asks, "What is it that imparts to this mysterious current that violent impulse, which makes it spring from the bosom of the earth with an upright jet of eight or nine feet elevation, from the aperture in the rocky crust underneath the building, &c. &c.?" a central fire! Nay, we, in our turn, would ask, did the author never see a fountain at home, (for the much or little makes no difference,) or the gush of water when the plug is removed from the water-mains of the streets of London? Central fire, forsooth! and even if it be so, does not the tea-kettle, when full, run over as the water expands with heat? What, then, is there mysterious in the phenomenon? Is this a time for natural philosophers to be running over Europe propagating a habit of silly and idle wonderment, at war with all rational inquiry? This twaddle is, we conjecture, a result of the Doctor's professional practice, and of the consequent necessity of administering, on occasions, the requisite dose of that highly-esteemed drug. Loose, inconclusive discourse is too much the staple of English society; and mystery is the short explanation of all phenomena, with those who will not take the trouble to examine. Dr. Granville would hardly have addressed this specimen of philosophising to the Royal Society, why then should he venture it in print for the general reader? The manifest wish, however, to win over "the general," has rendered his work throughout less precise and luminous than it should have been, and has tempted him, upon occasions, into "bold, disjointed talk," which will be anything but satisfactory to his professional brethren, and to such readers as are not content to take payment in words.

Maugre, then, the author's professional rank, his work must be received as the mere result of a rapid, but rather extensive tour,—a general guide book to the German Spas, interspersed with anecdotes picked up on the road, and occasionally seasoned with personalities, which had better have been omitted. The treatment, according to his own report, of a poor, struggling, starving countryman, encountered at Baden-Baden, and "whom," he says, "I verily believe to be the most inoffensive creature in the world," was heartless in the extreme, wholly unprovoked, and may have been injurious even in pecuniary results, where such results are evidently of the utmost importance to the sufferer:—his introduction of the lady's name in the scene he has described is equally wanton and offensive. The captious remarks, also, on the Old Man of the Brunnens are singularly injudicious, and the eternal reference to 'St. Petersburg,' &c. in the worst possible taste. Still, among works of its class, 'The Spas of Germany' will take rank. It is handsomely got up; and, though immeasurably below the often sneered at 'Bubbles,' is, on the whole, as amusing and informing as such volumes usually are. If we have not spoken more favourably of it, it is not because we think it relatively inferior to the average standard, but because we are weary of the prevalent mediocrity of our literature, which is rapidly sinking below the level of that of the rest of Europe; and it is, therefore, with more than common pain, that we see those who, by education, and attainments, should be the enlargers and extenders of the national intellect, contributing to the already overgrown masses of feebleness and commonplace.

We should not, if we had more space than we can command at present, make any serious demands on these volumes for extracts relating to their professed subject; but the account of the

visit to the Salt Mines, at Hullein, is written with unusual dramatic power, and we may avail ourselves of it at a future time.

EGYPTIAN ANTIQUITIES.

[Second Notice.]

Wine must always have been a rarity in Egypt; for though its use was permitted to the priests, the people were only allowed to drink it at certain festivals, especially that of Artemis Bubastus, when, as we are informed by Herodotus, more wine was consumed than in all the year besides. At other times they drank a kind of beer made from barley. This liquor being used chiefly by the middle and lower castes, we are not to expect any details of its manufacture on the monuments. If there were any, it would be difficult to identify them, for, from the account given us by Herodotus, it is manifest that the Egyptian beer was a sort of sweet wort; it was but slightly fermented, and as no hops were used in the manufacture, it was probably made only in small quantities, as the occasion required. Yet, from the monuments, we infer that the cultivation of the grape was at one time popular in Egypt, though it could only have been cultivated with success in a few of the high-lying districts; and when commerce enabled the Egyptians to import wine from other countries better and cheaper than they could manufacture it themselves, they

had the good sense to abandon this unprofitable branch of industry, and direct their attention to commodities for which nature afforded them greater facilities. In the age of the patriarch Jacob, wine must have been manufactured in Egypt, else it is fair to infer that he would have sent it with the other products of Syria, which he gave to his sons, for the purpose of conciliating Pharaoh's minister, his unknown son Joseph. "Take of the best fruits in the land in your vessels, and carry down the man a present, a little balm, and a little honey, spices and myrrh, nuts and almonds." (Gen. xliii. 11.) But from the enumeration of the judgments that God was about to inflict on the land of Egypt in the days of the prophet Isaiah, it would appear that the vines were not important, for their destruction forms no part of the prophet's denunciations against Egypt, as it does of his menaces against the Syrians and Chaldeans.

Other circumstances, indeed, tend to prove that the cultivation of the vine was not very extensive; we find it in almost every instance planted in the gardens; there are few, if any, separate vineyards. A greater number of labourers is found attending to the vines than to any other horticultural produce, whence we may conclude that their cultivation required more than ordinary care, and was a luxury of the rich rather than an occupation of the people.

30.) We find women sharing the pleasing toil of grape-pressing; the Greeks, as we are informed by Anacreon, excluded them from an employment likely to inspire them with a love for the intoxicating juice.

Lo! the vintage now is done!
And purpled with the autumnal sun;
The grapes gay youths and virgins bear,
The sweetest product of the year!
In vats the heavenly liquid they lay,
And swift the daimelic trip away.
The youths alone the wine-press tread,
For wine's by skilful drunkards made.
Meantime the mirthful song they raise,
Lo! Bacchus to thy praise!
And viewing the lust juice in thought,
Quaff an imaginary draught.

—Ode L. W. Browne's Translation.

Indeed, so great was the general joy inspired by the vintage, that its cessation is one of the punishments denounced by Jeremiah against Moab. "And joy and gladness is taken from the plentiful field, and from the land of Moab; and I have caused wine to fail from the wine-presses; none shall tread with shouting; their shouting shall be no shouting." (Jeremiah, xlviii. 33.) We have a similar allusion to the joy of the vintage in Isaiah's denunciation, which is also against Moab. "And gladness is taken away, and joy out of the pleasant field; and in the vineyards there shall be no singing, neither shall there be shouting; the treaders shall tread out no wine in their presses; I have made their vintage shouting to cease." (Isaiah, xvi. 10.)

The crushed pulp of the grapes sunk into the bottom of the vat or cistern; the expressed juice flowed out through a spout inserted in the side of the cistern, about one-third of its height from the ground. The juice was imperfectly extracted by the treading process, and another operation was required to render available what remained in the trodden pulp. For this purpose a bag, made of flags or rushes, was provided, in which the pulp was placed, and compressed, by twisting the ends of the bag with staves or handspikes. The editor of the Pictorial Bible, a work whose judicious illustrations convey fuller and more perfect information than all the folios of the commentators, confirms our theory, that the bag was used to extract the juice from grapes already subjected to the treading operation, by observing that there is an intermediate process in the supply of fruit to the bag-press; the grapes are deposited in large buckets, and not brought directly from the vines, as they are to the treading press.

Fishing is one of the employments most frequently depicted on the monuments. It is recorded as a fearful aggravation of the First Plague of Egypt, "the fish that was in the river died." (Exodus, vii. 21.) and the first great complaint of the Israelites, when they murmured against Moses in the Desert, was "We remember the fish that we did eat in Egypt freely." (Numbers, xi. 5.) Isaiah alludes to the importance of fish to the Egyptians, when denouncing divine vengeance against them. "The fishers also shall mourn, and all they that cast angle into the brooks shall lament, and they that spread nets upon the waters shall languish. And they shall be broken in the purposes thereof, all that make sluices and ponds for fish." (Isaiah, xix. 8-10.) The Nile and the artificial lakes were swept with nets, but we have no instance of fishing in the open sea. The supply has not failed in modern times; M. Michaud informs us, "The waters of Menzaleh abound in fish; the Arabs say that the varieties of fish in the lake exceed in number the days of the year. Although this may be deemed an exaggeration, it is certain that whatever be the number of their species, the fishes of this lake multiply infinitely." The fishery of Menzaleh has always been farmed by the government of Egypt; under the Circassian sultans it was

* See the engraving, next page.

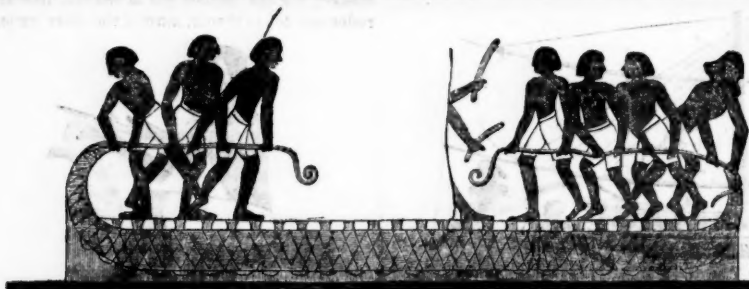


In the engraving of the vine arbour before us, it will be seen that great care is taken to keep the roots moist; they are inclosed by a mound or wall, and water is brought to them by one of the labourers. Belzoni found the grape-vine growing wild in the region of Fayoum, near the lake Moeris; but from him, and from other authorities, we learn that the fruit is deficient both in quantity and quality. The rich clusters in the engraving above, are a clear proof that the artificial production of plants, in localities for which they were not naturally adapted, was carried to an extent in Egypt which might excite the envy of our modern horticultural societies.

The grapes, when collected, were conveyed in baskets to the wine-vat. This was not a moveable utensil, but a cistern, either dug or built; generally the latter; when the fruit was collected in this receptacle, men and women were employed to crush it by treading. In the press to the right of the engraving, two persons will be seen engaged in this work; they are holding ropes fixed to a transverse pole, by which they give greater force and elasticity to their spring or leap. The transverse beam is here fastened to two date-palms, for the press is a small one, erected in a garden; but we find others in the construction of which considerable architectural beauty is displayed. The place of the palms is supplied by splendid columns, and the transverse beam is ornamented with fluting and carving, such as is usual in cornices. To this operation there are frequent allusions in Scripture. Bishop Lowth has dwelt forcibly on the poetic beauty of the delineation of divine vengeance, by imagery borrowed from the wine-press, in Isaiah's description of the Messiah's victory over his enemies. "Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from

Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the wine-vat? I have trodden the wine-press alone; and of the people there was none with me; for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come. And I looked and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold; therefore, mine own arm brought salvation unto me, and my fury it upheld me. And I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth." (Isaiah, lxiii. 1-6.) In this noble burst of poetry, the word "alone" has a peculiar emphasis, because it was usual for several persons to tread together in the wine-press. The crushing of the grapes, the spouting forth of the purple juice, and the dark stains on the vesture, naturally suggest an image of the waste and destruction ensuing from the triumph of some mighty conqueror. To the Hebrews it was a familiar illustration, for, in their language, "blood of the grape" is an ordinary expression for wine.

Treading out the grapes was an exhilarating employment; in all the representations of the process we imagine that we can see joy and merriment, proceeding even to extravagance, on the countenances of those engaged in it. This circumstance explains another image of divine vengeance in the prophecies of Jeremiah: "The Lord shall mightily roar from his habitation; he shall give a shout as they that tread the grapes, against all the inhabitants of the earth." (Jeremiah, xxv.



valued at ten thousand dinars; under the Mamelukes at forty thousand crowns; the revenue which it yields at present to Mohammed Ali is estimated at eight hundred purses, (rather more than eight thousand pounds)." From the same author we shall extract some account of the population employed in the fishery, for it will be found to correspond pretty accurately with the appearance of the fishermen on the monuments. "The population on the islands Matharieh, (in the lake Menzaleh), is so numerous, that there is not room to plant a single tree on the soil, and that the huts and tombs are huddled together. Everybody is engaged either in catching or curing fish; the most abundant fishing grounds are divided into several inclosures by reeds and rushes; these are the properties of the different fishermen, and their boundaries are far more respected than those of the farms belonging to the unhappy Fellahs. The inhabitants of the Matharian islands have all the jealousies of an insular population, and claim an exclusive right to the waters by which they are surrounded; evil would be the fate of the strange fisherman who should steer his bark into their archipelago, and who should be caught casting his lines near their islets. . . . No less than seventeen villages may be counted round the lake Menzaleh; the greater part of this dense population has no resource but fishing; with the salt fish which they send to Cairo, Syria, and even the interior of Africa, they purchase dates, rice, timber for boat and hut-building, hemp and twine for their lines, and fire-arms to make war on the waterfowl, and sometimes on their enemies."—*Correspondance d'Orient*, vol. vi, letter 156.

On the monuments the fishermen appear as a class inferior to the agricultural population, and we know historically that they formed one of the lowest castes. The following engraving exhibits the fisherman taking his store to market; it is probable that a small fish of the trout species, which is still regarded as a delicacy in Egypt, was preserved in the covered vessels to save it from being injured by the heat of the sun.



The Egyptians were the first nation which history records as curing meat and fish with salt for preservation. The trade of preserving fish appears to have been more dignified than that of

catching them, for the curers and salters are superior in look and general bearing to the fishermen.



The fishes were divided longitudinally by a short wide knife, not unlike that which is sometimes used for splitting cod-fish at Newfoundland. They were cured with fossil salt, procured from the African desert; for sea-salt, like other marine productions, was deemed impure. Sea-fish could not be used for the same reason, and Plutarch tells us that the priests abstained from every kind of fish, thinking them impure on account of their possible communication with the sea. Clemens Alexandrinus assigns a different reason; he says that the priests extended



The rigging of most of the vessels on the monuments proves that they were river or canal boats. The rudder passes right through the keel, and is used as an oar is sometimes employed as a substitute for a rudder in the present day, and in the mode of propelling a boat called sculling. In many instances we find an awning below the main sail, to protect the rowers from the excessive heat of the sun.* These vessels were very unfit to ascend the river against the stream, and they were always towed up, except when the wind was fresh and favourable. They made use of a singular contrivance to accelerate their motion when descending the stream. They fastened a hurdle of tamarisk with a rope to the prow of the vessel; this hurdle they strengthened

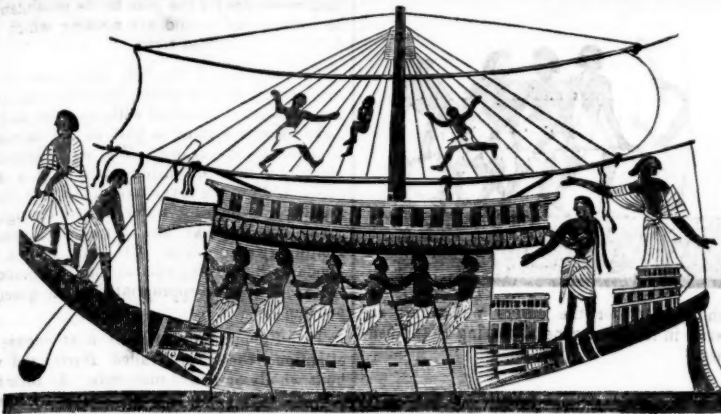
* See the next engraving.

their reverence for the Nile to the inhabitants of its waters, and would eat nothing which had floated in the sacred river.

The fisheries of the Nile itself were free to the public in ancient times, but those established on the canals connected with the Nile and the Lake Moeris formed a part of the hereditary domains of the crown. We are informed by Herodotus that this fishery daily paid a talent (193*l.* 15*s.*) to the royal treasury during the six months in which the water flowed through the canal into the lake, and during the other six months twenty minæ (64*l.* 11*s.* 8*d.*) a day. Diodorus Siculus informs us that this branch of the revenue was appropriated to the queens as pin money.

The Egyptian boats must next engage our attention; they were called *Baris*, and were built wholly of native materials. In their form they show that the first idea of their construction was derived from an excavated tree; an idea as forcibly recalled to our minds by the wherries of the Thames as the canoes of the South Sea. Herodotus tells us that they were formed from small planks, about two cubits square, cut either from the roots of the papyrus or the Egyptian acantha. Neither is of sufficient size to admit of even a coracle being formed from the trunk, and we therefore incline to think that the persons in the accompanying sketch are not employed in excavation. The instrument in the hands of the three workmen may either be used to bore holes for the pins which fastened the planks together, or, what is more probable, to stop up the interstices or, as we commonly say, to caulk the vessel with loose hemp and byblus. The chisel, which is employed by the two figures to the right, is the same as that which, in other plates, we see used in cabinet and upholstery work, and in one specimen in coach-making; it is always distinguishable by the curve which the blade makes with the handle.

with reeds and bands of byblus, and let it down into the water. The stream bearing upon the hurdle urged the vessel forward with such rapidity that her head would have been run under water if they had not steadied her by a heavy weight in the stern. In some reigns the Egyptians unquestionably paid attention to naval affairs, and kept ships for war and commerce on the Red Sea: the navigation of the Mediterranean was always unpopular, and for the most part prohibited. Ships of war and a naval engagement are found on the monuments supposed to depict the exploits of Sesostris; and Diodorus Siculus, whose passion for the marvellous however renders his testimony suspicious, declares that Sesostris built a ship of larger dimensions than one of our first-rate men of war.



The cordage used on board the ships was generally formed of leather; the cutting of the leather into thongs seems to have been an important business, for it occurs very frequently on the monuments; it will be seen that the knife used for this purpose is very similar to that employed by the fishmonger for splitting his fish; it is however larger and more weighty.

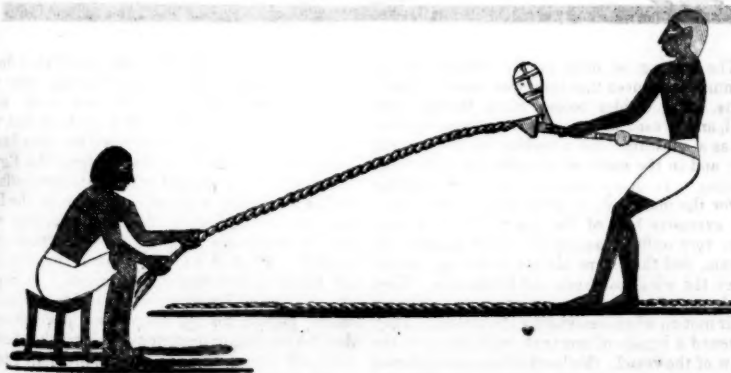


It is manifest that thongs cut straight, as in the example before us, would be of a very limited length, but we see by the monuments that the Egyptians had the art of cutting their leather by a circular motion, which gave them a thong of considerable length, and we also find that it was these long strings which were twisted into ropes or cables, as is exemplified below.

These leather ropes were more elastic than any formed of hemp. In the apparatus now used for

communicating with shipwrecked vessels by sending a line attached to a shot or shell, it is found necessary to have the first coils of the rope made of leather; chains and common cables would break off within a few inches of the mouth of the gun. Most persons remember their surprise when children at the great length of thong supplied from a small piece of leather by the spiral, or, as it is technically called, the "circular cut." The wonder was worked up into a fable, for Dido was said to have obtained the ground on which Carthage stood by bargaining for as much as a bull's hide would enclose, and then cutting the hide into thongs so as to take in a space far larger than the seller expected. This story has gone the round of the world; a friend of ours was informed in Persia that the English obtained possession of Calcutta by the very same stratagem; the Chinese tell the story of one of their emperors, and the North American Indians believe that this was one of the countless artifices by which the white men deceived their red brethren.

Leather was also used for the manufacture of shoes and sandals; this appears to have been a favourite branch of industry; and the varieties in the shape prove that some taste was exhibited in the decoration and display of the foot. The ladies generally wore a sandal consisting of nothing more than the flat sole with a narrow strap from the point of the toe meeting two straps which rise about the centre of the foot. Fancy or taste was displayed in the various ways of lacing the coloured bands with which these were fastened on the foot. The shoe or slipper is far more clumsy in its construction; indeed, it would appear that the task of rendering the shoe an ornament was left to the wearer rather than the



maker; for the implements of manufacture are ruder and fewer than in most of the other trades.



Laces formed by twisting party-coloured leather seem to have been fashionable, and we meet some approaches to the high-pointed toes, for which our English ancestors were remarkable in the Middle Ages.

We have briefly noticed flax and cotton in our account of the agricultural produce; we have now to examine their importance to the manufacturing population of Egypt. When the prophet wishes to describe the misery which the foolishness of the Egyptian princes was likely to bring on the labouring classes of their subjects, he mentions the weavers as next in importance to the fishermen: "Moreover they that work in fine flax, and they that weave networks shall be confounded." (Isaiah, xix. 9.) Instead of "networks," the margin of our Bibles has "white works," which is the true translation; the prophet alludes to the cotton manufacture, which has been so often confounded with linen both by ancient and modern writers. The linen and cotton were exported in the shape of yarn. We are told that "Solomon had horses brought out of Egypt and linen yarn; the king's merchants received the linen yarn at a price." (1 Kings, x. 28.) And the linen of Egypt was highly valued in Palestine, for the seducer, in Proverbs, says, "I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved works, with fine linen of Egypt." (Proverbs, vii. 16.) Spinning was wholly a female employment; it is rather singular that we find this work frequently performed by a large number collected together, as if the factory system had been established three thousand years ago.



We have, however, many specimens of spinning as a domestic employment. Hamilton and Wilkinson have already shown that many of the descriptions of combats we meet in the Iliad appear to have been derived from the battle-pieces on the walls of the Theban palaces, which the poet himself pretty plainly intimates that he had visited. The same observation may be applied to most of Homer's pictures of domestic life. We find the lady of the mansion superin-

tending the labours of her servants, and sometimes using the distaff herself. Her spindle made of some precious material, richly ornamented, her beautiful work-basket, or rather vase, and the wool dyed of some bright hue to render it worthy of being touched by aristocratic fingers, remind us of the appropriate present the Egyptian Queen, Alcandra, made to the Spartan Helen; for the beauty of that fragile fair one is scarcely less celebrated than her skill in embroidery and every species of ornamental work. After Polybus had given his presents to Menelaus, who stopped at Egypt on his return from Troy,

Alcandra, consort of his high command,
A golden distaff gave to Helen's hand;
And that rich vase, with living sculpture wrought,
Which, heap'd with wool, the beauteous Phyllo brought;
The silken fleece unpurpled for the loom,
Rivall'd the hyacinth in vernal bloom.—*Odyssey* 17.

We find weaving performed both by women and men; in the former case the manufacture appears to be principally domestic and limited to the productions of such articles as are most requisite for family use. The employment does not appear to have been very exhilarating; in several instances we find a melancholy look on the countenance of the weavers, reminding us of the sorrowing Penelope.

Full opposite before the folding gate
The pensive woman sits in humble state;
Lowly she sat, and with dejected view
The fleecy threads her wary fingers drew.—*Odyssey* XVII.

But the sombre aspect of the persons thus engaged is easily explained, when we remember that most of these work-women were captives taken in war, fallen from their former high estate, and forced to bear the contumely of an imperious mistress. It will be remembered with what bitterness of feeling Hector rebukes such a fate for his beloved Andromache:—

Thy woes, Andromache, thy grief I dread,
I see thee trembling, weeping, captive led;
In Argive looms our battles to design,
And woes, of which so large a part was thine.—*Iliad* VI.



A vest of ornamental work seems to have been a favourite present from a fond wife to her husband. In almost every example of embroidery we find the mistress of the house either superintending the work or actually engaged in it. Our classical readers will remember that Andromache was thus employed when she received intelligence of the death of Hector:—

Far in the close recesses of the dome,
Pensive she ply'd the melancholy loom,
A gloomy work employ'd her secret hours,
Comfortably gay with intermingled flowers.
Now from the walls the clamours reach her ear,
And all her members shake with sudden fear.
Forth from her wary hand the shuttle falls,
Alarm'd, astonished to her maids she calls.—*Iliad* XXII.

Surcoats ornamented with needle-work formed no small part of the ancient warrior's pride. An allusion is made to the custom in the most striking passage of Deborah's triumphal hymn, "The mother of Sisera looked out at a window and cried through the lattice, why is his chariot so long in coming? why tarry the wheels of his chariots? Her wise ladies answered her, yea, she returned answer to herself, Have they not sped? have they not divided the prey? to every man a damsel or two; to Sisera a prey of divers

colours, a prey of divers colours of needle-work, of divers colours of needle-work on both sides, meet for the necks of them that take the spoil." (Judges, v. 28—30.) The repetition of the "divers colours" in this passage is a strong proof of the value that was anciently set on this embroidered work.

Herodotus assures us that weaving was especially the business of men, but his observation must be understood to apply to the public manufactories rather than to the employments of domestic life. The most beautiful specimen of it which we have yet seen is given by Minutoli, from the tombs of Beni Halsem (vol. ii. plate 24); it would be impossible to exhibit its peculiarities without the aid of colours, but they may perhaps be understood from the following description. The weaver's loom is held fast by four blocks, securely embedded in the ground; the workman sits on that part of the web already finished, which is a small delicately chequered pattern of yellow and green; the materials spread around prove to us that the byssus, or cotton employed in the manufacture of the richest cloths, was dyed in the wool before it was placed in the hands of the weaver. It is manifest also from the account Moses gives us of the furnishing of the tabernacle, that the wool was frequently coloured before it was given to the female weavers and spinners. He says "all the women that were wise-hearted did spin with their hands and brought that which they had spun, both of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, and of fine linen." (Exodus, xxxv. 25.) The sacred historian also mentions a material for spinning which we have not positively identified on the monuments, though we think that in some instances its presence is probable: "And all the women whose heart stirred them up in wisdom spun goats' hair." (Exodus, xxxv. 26.)

Moses is the first who mentions the preparation of gold in wires to be interwoven with the more precious cloths. "And they did beat the gold into thin plates and cut it into wires, to work it in the blue, and in the purple, and in the scarlet, and in the fine linen with cunning work." (Exodus, xxxix. 3.) Cloth of golden tissue is not uncommon on the monuments, and specimens of it have been found rolled about the mummies, but it is not easy to determine whether the wire was originally interwoven or subsequently inserted by the embroiderer.

Perhaps the most singular instance of mutual illustration between the scriptural records and the Egyptian monuments is derived from the forty-fifth Psalm in connexion with the subject under discussion. It is generally supposed that this Psalm was a hymeneal ode composed on the occasion of Solomon's marriage with Pharaoh's daughter; although it is allowed on all hands to have a much higher purport, prophetically referring to the majesty and grace of the Messiah's kingdom. As many of the illustrations we have derived from the monuments are new, having escaped the notice of the commentators, we shall follow the order of the Psalm rather than of the main subject, the textile fabrics of Egypt, in the order of our remarks. The title of the Psalm is of some importance; it is headed "To the chief musician upon Shoshannim, for the sons of Korih, Maschil, a song of loves." The word Shoshannim has puzzled the commentators, Jewish and Christian; it signifies "lilies," and they all declare that "lilies" have nothing to do with the subject of the ode. But, as we shall presently see, this hymeneal ode was intended to be sung by the female attendants of the Egyptian princess, and they are called "the lilies," not only by a poetic reference to the lotus lilies of the Nile, but by a direct allusion to their custom of making the lotus-lily a conspicuous ornament of their dress. Shoshannim then, instead of

being the name of an unknown tune, as most of the commentators assert, is a poetic allusion to the country, the beauty, and the dress of the female choristers.



Maschil signifies "instruction;" the word rendered "of loves." (Jedidith) signifies also "the beloved one," or, by a slight change in the pointing, "the lovely or beloved girls;" that is, the female attendants for whose instruction the ode was composed.

Let us now turn to the thirteenth and fourteenth verses. "The king's daughter is all glorious within; her clothing is of wrought gold. She shall be brought unto the king in raiment of needlework; the virgins, her companions, that follow her, shall be brought unto thee." The first clause refers to the light fine texture of the Egyptian muslins; they were so delicate as to receive the name of "woven air," the limbs appear through them, and the whole form is distinctly displayed. We shall illustrate this in our next number.

We have already mentioned the use of "wrought gold" both in the weaving and the embroidery of Egypt. The latter, of course, is alone referred to by the term "needle-work," but we do not find, from the monuments, embroidery much practised as a trade distinct from weaving. It is sufficiently evident, from what has been said, that the art of dying had made as great progress as that of weaving. The various colours, white, yellow, red, blue, green, and black, are met with in beautiful perfection, but without mixture, for it appears that the Egyptians did not know how to produce a variety of shades by mixing and blending their colours. In one of Rosellini's plates, however, we think that we have found an example of an attempt to produce the varying shades of shot-silk. But no one can look at the number and richness of the colours without being compelled to inquire whether their dye-stuffs were indigenous or imported from abroad. We have reason to believe that the blue is derived from indigo, which neither the monuments nor the historians notice among the productions of Egypt. It was most probably obtained from India. In a naval combat on the Red Sea, forming a compartment in one of the pictures supposed to represent the wars of Sesostris, we have Hindus, or a nation cognate to them, engaged in fight with the Egyptians, and if there was a warlike, there might also have been a commercial intercourse between the two nations. It is probable that dye-stuffs were obtained from the Tyrians; their scarlet and purple colours have been always celebrated; they had an extensive commerce through Babylon with the interior of central Asia; and their trade with Egypt was so extensive that they established a factory at Memphis, under the protection of their national goddess

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Astarte. This intercourse must have been anterior to the days of Solomon, for in his hymenial ode one of the encouragements he holds out to his Egyptian bride is, "The daughter of Tyre shall be there with a gift." (Psalm, xlv. 12.) In the time of Ezekiel, the Tyrian trade with Egypt, and its description, is one of the chief features in his account of the wealth of Tyre. "Fine linen, with bordered work from Egypt, was that which thou spreadest forth to be thy sail." (Ezekiel, xxvii. 7.)

We cannot conclude this portion of our subject without some reference to the works in metal, which rank next in importance to weaving. It would appear that the Egyptians were ignorant of the use of iron, for all the implements not formed of gold and silver, are painted green, and must manifestly have been made of brass. We need not remind our classical readers that all the weapons mentioned by Homer are said to have been formed of this metal. Casting must have been carried to a high degree of perfection, for most, if not all, of the war chariots are brazen; a circumstance proved not only by their green colour, but by the lightness and neatness of their wheels, and their beautiful ornaments, too elaborate to have been carved. Swords, quivers, knives, axes, and adzes are all formed from the same material, and even some bows appear to have been formed of this metal. As there were no mines in Egypt, it seems probable that the great quantity of metal required in the arts was obtained from the interior of Africa. Copper, in hardness, bears the proportion to iron of about eight to nine, and was therefore not very much inferior to it before the art of forming the latter into steel was discovered. The monuments clearly show us that iron was either unknown or unused in the flourishing days of the Pharaohs, and this circumstance tends strongly to demonstrate the antiquity of the Pentateuch, and consequently its authenticity as a contemporary document, when we find that invariably the metals described as employed for use or ornament, are those only which appear on the ancient monuments of Egypt. Thus Bezabel is said to have been instructed "to devise cunning works, to work in gold, in silver, and in brass." (Exodus, xxxi. 4.) It may be necessary to add, that in Hebrew the same word signifies both brass and copper; our translators invariably use the former, even when the native copper is mentioned. The account given of the structure of the tabernacle proves that metallurgy must have been well understood in the days of Moses, and, from the description of the golden calf, we may infer that the casting of idols and statues was no uncommon practice. Gilding was certainly understood by the Egyptians, for we find traces of it on the mummies and the mummy cases. It would be too long a digression to examine whether the "overlaying the boards of the tabernacle with gold," (Exodus, xxxvi. 34,) refers to gilding or a covering of thin plates; but, in support of the former view, we may notice that the weight of the plates would have rendered the tabernacle very difficult of transport, and a positive incumbrance to the Israelites in their journeying through the desert; the amount of gold, too, collected by Moses, would not have supplied sufficient material for plates, however thin, to cover the entire edifice; and, finally, the word here rendered "overlaying" is the same used to describe the decorating of the carved work in Solomon's temple, which must have been gilding; as plates, however thin, would have concealed the tracery and foliage described to have been wrought with so much artistic skill.

Metal mirrors were in common use among the ancient Egyptians; they occasionally appear on the monuments, and are mentioned by Moses in the account of the brazen laver. "He made

the laver of brass, and the foot of it of brass, of the looking-glasses (metal mirrors) of the women assembling." (Exodus, xxxviii. 8.) The Egyptian women of rank appear to have used mirrors of burnished silver. Bells, chains, ear-rings, and other metallic ornaments, are not only depicted on the monuments, but found in the tombs. Having recently described Giovanni d'Athanasia's collection of Egyptian Antiquities, in which there were many beautiful specimens of such trinkets, we do not think it necessary to dwell farther on this subject.

Some other branches of Egyptian manufacture remain to be described, but these, with a brief examination of the internal economy of the people, their habits of life, and their domestic amusements, we must reserve for another paper.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

Sketches of Popular Tumults, illustrative of the Evils of Social Ignorance.—A well-meant and amusing volume, teeming in every page with maxims of tolerance, and reasonings on the danger and fatality of appeals to force for the redress of partial wrongs. There is but one mistake of any consequence that we are aware of, and that is in addressing the work exclusively to the lower classes. From the bottom of our hearts we believe that there are many in other classes who stand much more in need of such instruction. In point of fact, few, if any, tumults of the nature described in this volume have arisen from the mere motion of the common people, but have proceeded from the instigation of scoundrels acting with their eyes open, or of weak and hot-headed fanatics. There is also commonly a considerable portion of the incendiarism propagated by those happy mixtures of the hot head and the cold heart, which are most efficacious in disseminating popular delusions. The working classes, pressed by the necessity of supplying their daily wants, have little or no leisure for indulging a taste for religious or political controversy; and they require a rather long continued agency of the Satchels and Lord George Gordons to rouse them into fury.

The Curate of Steinholth: a Tale of Iceland.—This work has been for some weeks buried out of sight under a heap of novelties, more flashy, but of far less value. As, however, it is not "based on any recent and thrilling occurrence in high life," and does not, among its characters, show up this eccentric Lord, and that enamoured Lady, till "people ask themselves, whether the truth can be told without offence—ought to be told?"—as, in short, it is a book beyond the province of puffery, it will not suffer from our notice being delayed. We have read it with great pleasure; though feebly, it is faithfully executed; it breathes throughout the air of the far north—that region of winter and superstition, and of the homely, simple-hearted affections, which, it has often occurred to us, are called forth in all their strength in proportion as nature is forbidding and ungenerous. The incidents are well suited to the scenery: we hear of robbers living in caves; of pestilences and earthquakes foreseen in the dreams of a long winter's night; and there is one character, we mean Vola, the light-headed, and saucy-tongued visionary, who, if not true to nature, is, at least, eminently probable. It contains also a gentle love story interwoven with these wilder and more dismal things; and the whole ends with a happy marriage, and in the "curate's" manse. The drawback on the popularity of such works as these with the general public, is the remoteness from our own experience of the scenes and manners depicted; and this is only to be overcome by the spell of a master-magician.

Plays and Poems, by Mrs. W. Busk.—These are the work of a highly-accomplished woman, who has turned her accomplishments to account in "the rainy day"; and such as may be disposed to recognize talent, and to assist it in its most honourable exercise, cannot do better than add their names to its subscription list. Many of the translations, which have appeared in past numbers of *Blackwood's Magazine* and the *Foreign Quarterly*, are, if we mistake not, from the pen of Mrs. Busk. Here we have a first volume, containing two serious dramas and

comedy, which, though not, perhaps, coloured highly enough for stage representation, is written in a lively and polished style; and a second, in which the authoress's fugitive pieces are collected, and headed by a longer poem, 'Sordello.' Is this founded upon the same subject as that chosen by the author of 'Paracelsus' for his announced poem?

A Letter to Lord W. Bentinck, by Henry Fairbairn.—The object of the writer is, to point out what he considers the superior advantages of a steam passage to the East Indies by the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific, as compared with that by the Red Sea. The route proposed by Mr. Fairbairn is by the Azores, Bermuda, the Havannah, to Vera Cruz; thence the passengers, mails, &c., are to be transported by land to Acapulco (no direct road at present exists), and from Acapulco other steam ships are to convey them to Madras or Calcutta, according to destination, touching at the Sandwich Islands, the Ladrões, Borneo, and Singapore; of course, branch vessels are expected to run between Acapulco and Australia, touching at Otaheite, and from the Ladrões to Canton. Now, to say nothing of the Presidency of Bombay being wholly omitted, as not coming within the limits of the proposed route, let us consider for a moment the relative distances. It may be assumed then, without regarding minute accuracy, that to Bombay by the Red Sea is something under 6000 miles, to Madras about 7000, and to Calcutta under 8000; whereas we much doubt whether, by the Gulf of Mexico, it would fall short of 15000. The compensating advantages, according to Mr. Fairbairn, are the comparative tranquillity of the Pacific—the trade, European and American, with India, China, the Dutch colonies, &c. These we shall leave to the consideration of the reader.

List of New Books.—Hymns and Poems, by J. S. Mansell, 18mo. 2s. 6d. cl.—Robert's (Rev. B.) Difficulties of Dissent, 12mo. 1s. swd.—Bayle's Institutions of the Church of England, 2nd edit. 2s. 6d. cl.—McLean's Adam and Eve (Gaelic), 12mo. 2s. 6d. cl.—Laird and Oldfield's Narrative of an Expedition into the Interior of Africa, 2 vols. 8vo. 28s. bds.—An Exposition of the Counsel of God for the Redemption of the World, by the Very Rev. Robert Stevens, 8vo. 7s. bds.—Thoughts for the Day, 2nd series, 18mo. 3s. cl.—Hutton's Mathematics, by Gregory, Vol. II., 8vo. new edit. 12s. bds.—Saunders's Portraits of Eminent Living Political Reformers, Part I., 3s. swd.; 1 p. 7s. 6d. swd.—The Bible and Spade, 18mo. 2s. 6d. cl.—Henderson's (Mrs.) Cottage Sermons, 12mo. 2s. 6d. cl.—Claridge's Guide along the Danube, with maps, &c., 8s. cl.—The City of the East, and other poems, 8vo. 3s. 6d. swd.—The Cry of the Poor, a Poem, post 8vo. 2s. swd.—The Poetical Works of Lewis Glyn Colli, Part I., 8vo. 8s. cl.—Banks's Broom and Extinct Partridge, Vol. IV., deny 4to. 65s. bds.—Rory O'More, 2nd edit. 3 vols. post 8vo. 31s. 6d. bds.—The Child's Arithmetic, 12mo. 1s. swd.—Chambers's Picture of Scotland, new edit. 12mo. 10s. 6d. cl.—Macdonogh's Memoirs of Farrar, 2nd edit. 12mo. 4s. cl.—Calvin's Christian Theology, by Dunn, new edit. 12mo. 6s. cl.—Simpson's Plea for Religion, new edit. 12mo. 5s. cl.—The Arctura, 2nd edit. 3 vols. 31s. 6d. bds.—Anthon's Select Orations of Cicero, 12mo. 7s. 6d. bds.—Cancer Extripated without the Use of the Knife, by T. Buttry, 8vo. 3s. 6d. swd.—Robinson's Brevelary of the Poor Laws, roy. 12mo. 14s. bds.—An Exposition of the Practice relating to the Right to Begin and the Right to Reply, by W. M. Best, 8vo. 5s. cl.—Schroder's Turkish Grammar in English and French, 12mo. 6s. 6d. cl.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP ON LITERATURE AND ART.

It may be interesting to our scientific readers to be informed, that the Council of the Institution of Civil Engineers have decided, that in the distribution of the Premiums, no distinction will be made between the communications of Members, Associates, and others in no way connected with the Institution, whether Natives or Foreigners—that the Council will not consider themselves bound to award any premiums should the communication not be of adequate merit, but the Council will award valuable premiums to communications of distinguished merit, or more than one premium, should there be several communications on the same subject deserving this mark of distinction—and that the communications must be forwarded to the House of the Institution, 1, Cannon Row, Westminster, on or before the 31st March, 1838. The Council, without intending in any way to confine the premiums to Memoirs, &c. on the following subjects, direct attention to them as of great general interest, and with the view of pointing out the kind of communications which they are anxious to reward:—The Nature and Properties of Steam, considered with reference to its application as a moving power for Machinery.—The warning

The following address was agreed upon, and was presented to Her Majesty at the Levee on Wednesday last, by Mr. Hamilton, President of the Society.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
The humble Address of the President, Vice Presidents, and Council of the Royal Geographical Society of London.

Most EXCELLENT SOVEREIGN,
We, your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects the President and Council of the Royal Geographical Society, beg leave to approach your Throne, and most respectfully to offer, in the name of the Society, our sincere condolence on the occasion of the death of his late Majesty.

In common with all classes of your Majesty's subjects we have to deplore the loss of a beloved Sovereign; but the Royal Geographical Society have especial cause to revere the memory of William the Fourth as their first gracious and munificent Patron.

Yet whilst we are expressing our deep sense of gratitude to our late Sovereign, we feel that the cheering duty awaits us of respectfully offering our congratulations on the happy accession of your Majesty to the throne of a great empire; and we beg permission to offer our heartfelt thanks for your Majesty's gracious condescension and munificence in granting to us the honour of your Royal Patronage, and in bestowing upon the Society a Royal Premium for the encouragement of geographical science and discovery.

England has achieved some of her proudest triumphs in geographical discovery under the Sovereignty of a Queen: the annals of our country record the names of Drake, the celebrated circumnavigator, and of Raleigh, the adventurous discoverer, both distinguished under the reign of Queen Elizabeth; and we confidently anticipate that the reign of your Majesty will be equally famed for its glory and prosperity, and for the promotion of geographical knowledge. That your Majesty's reign may be rendered illustrious as the era of important discoveries, which may diffuse the blessings of civilization throughout the globe—as well as be endeared to the affections of a free and grateful people, is the earnest wish and ardent prayer of your Majesty's loyal subjects, the President, Vice Presidents, and Council of the Royal Geographical Society.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

July 4.—At the meeting this day the following medals were awarded: viz., a large silver medal to Mrs. Lawrence, F.H.S., for *Gesneria fasciata*, &c.; six other Knight medals to Mr. Fairburn, of Clapham, for heaths; to James Bateman, Esq., F.H.S., for various orchidaceous plants; to Mr. S. Hooker, F.H.S., for roses; to Mr. Errington, gardener to Sir P. Egerton, Bart., F.H.S., for Royal George peaches; to Mr. J. Stewart, gardener to Lord Ashburton, F.H.S., for white Magdalen peaches, and Keen's seedling strawberries; and a silver Banksian medal to William Leveson Gower, Esq., F.H.S., for double yellow roses. In addition to the above, there was a very beautiful collection of specimens of *Lychnis bungeana*, *Crim anabile*, *Eutoca viscidula*, *Combretum purpureum*, *Liries*, *Pelargonium*, &c. The Earl of Arran, and six other gentlemen, were elected Fellows of the Society.

The meteorological report from the 20th of June to the present day, was as follows:—

Barom.—Highest, June 23	30.261
Lowest, June 20	29.916
Therm.—Highest, June 22	81° Fahr.
Lowest, July 1	57° Fahr.
Total amount of rain, 0 inch.	

July 18.—Medals were bestowed for nectarines exhibited by Mr. Errington; for grapes from Mr. Flanagan, gardener to Sir Thomas Hare, Bart., F.H.S.; and for a plant of *Catsetum luridum*, from Mr. Durnford, gardener to the Baron Dimsdale, F.H.S. We noticed also some well-preserved apples—the growth of the year 1835, which had been received by the Society from Lord W. Fitzroy, F.H.S. Six candidates were elected Fellows of the Society.

The following were the meteorological observations which had been recorded since the 4th of July:—

Barom.—Highest, July 7	30.240
Lowest, July 14	29.768
Therm.—Highest, July 8	83° Fahr.
Lowest, July 9	46° Fahr.
Total amount of rain, 1.14 inch.	

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

Inst. of British Architects Eight, P.M.
Architectural Society Eight.
Zoo. Society (Sci. Bus.) ½ P. Eight.

FINE ARTS

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

When remarking upon the "Bohemian Gipsies," by Mr. McClise, in this year's Exhibition, we characterized his genius as essentially national. A large painting, *Snap-Apple Night*, carefully executed in mezzotint by James Scott, goes far to prove the truth of our assertion; it is as exclusively Irish as Burns's "Hallowe'en" is Scottish. Crowded with figures all alive—very gay and a little disorderly—here rollicking boys in their trusties, one dancing with all his might while he flourishes his shillelah over himself

and partner—another opening a mouth, to snatch at the perilous prize, such as was never opened save by "a son of the sod"—there an old crone with "a deck of cards" spread on her knee—opposite to her a lively lass, much smartened by the O'Connell handkerchief worn on her shoulders; with plenty of love among the young folks, and whiskey galore for their elders; and the dumpy St. Patrick, crosier in hand, over the chimney-piece—not one item of the fun and frolic which make up an Irish revel is wanting; and the whole, when pourtrayed, is as the reality would be, somewhat confusing and fatiguing to our soberer spirits, from the excess of its vivacity.

Mr. Martin has engraved on a large scale his *Marcus Curtius*, which, some years ago, was the chief attraction in one of the Annuals; there is, therefore, no need for us to dwell on it further than to describe it as amongst the finest of its artist's engravings. We never look at one of his designs, so profusely gorgeous and imposing in their architecture, without wishing that to him had been confided the imagining of the Palace in which our young Queen has taken up her residence. We should then have been secure of a building at least externally picturesque, in place of that mass of deformity and disproportion which is the shame of modern London.

The next print is Mr. H. P. Parker's *Covenanter*, engraved by Geller. The stern champion of "the solemn league" is seated under the shadow of a rock leaning upon his broadsword, and with his Bible at his side,—equally ready, as his compressed lips and his rugged furrowed brow assure us, to use either the carnal or the spiritual weapon. Behind him, in striking contrast, stands his patient white horse, and a shattered tree waves over his head. This is a good illustration to one of Scott's finest novels—'Old Mortality.'

A long descent in the scale of subjects, brings us to Mr. Edmonstone's *White Mouse*, beautifully engraved by Mr. G. H. Phillips. The figure of the bare-footed, jet-eyed, dark-complexioned, Italian boy is true to the life; and the girl and the child, who are gazing at the little creature set loose upon his sleeve, are expressively grouped, but the younger spectator, who should be the most intent, is gazing out of the picture. Another domestic subject is *The Fall of Napoleon*, a drunken soldier upsetting an image-boy's tray, engraved by G. Zobel (the name is new to us) after Wallis; we have seen the same sort of thing better done before.

From single prints we shall pass to books of prints, after having mentioned a portrait of the Queen when Princess, by Woolnoth, after a miniature by Collet: this is characterless and formal, as are most engravings after miniatures. We must also just say a word of two clever single lithographs, one a likeness of Mr. Eliason, by Sharp, after Hart: another (less excellent as a specimen of the art), by Madely, after Roublilac's well-known statue of Newton in the chapel of Trinity College, Cambridge. Lastly, *H.M.S. Inconstant*, drawn, and drawn cleverly, by W. Brierly, and transferred to zinc by Messrs. Day & Haghe.

We were not certain that Mr. John Burnet's *Essay on the Education of the Eye with reference to Painting* ought to be considered under the head of Fine Arts—but the number, variety, and beauty of the illustrations decided the question. In the Essay itself Mr. Burnet confines himself very strictly to his announced purpose, and treats literally of the education of the eye; and his work is remarkable rather for its plain, practical good sense, than for great reach of thought, subtle speculation, or the unfolding of those deep-lying mysteries of art which have, however, outward influences as great as the more obvious of which he treats. Mr. Burnet writes as an artist on the practice of his art; and, no doubt, his work will be found serviceable by those for whose use it is specially intended; but his illustrations are admirable—an Essay in themselves.

Three sets of illustrations after the manner of Retsch and Flaxman, that is, in outline, now come before us—the first of these being the *Ancient Mariner* illustrated, and the illustrations etched by David Scott. A subject at once finer and more impracticable could not have been selected by any artist—imagination without extravagance, force without violence, and a fine all-pervading sense of the supernatural, are eminently called for, to delineate the sufferings of him "who shot the albatross;" we regret to say, that we do not find them on the part of Mr.

Scott. There is a constant endeavour after extreme effects of attitude and of perspective, which,—in themselves bad, because overstrained,—he has not been able to execute. His manner, also, is too petty—his outline too broken, for subjects so large, and requiring so bold a sweep of the pencil. In the illustrations to *Manfred* and the *Prisoner of Chillon*, by Frederick Thrupp, the artist, if less original, is more successful: some of the designs are of great beauty, and remind us of the admirable compositions after Dante; we may instance the third, fourth, and fifth from Manfred; the first outline, too, from the *Prisoner of Chillon*, is much to our taste: the artist has shown a touch of true poetry in making the youngest and blithest of the three captives, looking up at the one sunbeam which streams through the lancet window, with an air which has in it something of the elasticity of hope. Mr. Franklin undoubtedly shows more power of grouping and of drawing in his *Tableaux from Crichton*, than either Mr. Scott or Mr. Thrupp; but many of his heads, attitudes, and costumes, are almost, if not altogether, borrowed from Retsch; and he has not endowed his "admirable" hero, with that personal beauty, which, chroniclers tell us, was no less striking than his deep scholarship, or his incomparable and courteous gallantry.

After the lively written descriptions of Turkish manners and scenery which we have been recently reading, Mr. J. F. Lewis's *Illustrations of Constantinople*, from the original sketches by Mr. Coke Smyth, are doubly welcome. It is difficult to resist the temptations they hold out, in the shape of picturesque buildings and costumes (the last, alas! shorn of its old magnificence by the paring-knife of "the schoolmaster") to escape on a pilgrimage to "The City of the Sultan." The name of Mr. Lewis is an assurance of spirited and careful execution. We must instance the views of 'Scutari,' of 'Yeni Jami and St. Sophia from the Golden Horn,' of 'the Artillery Barracks, Tophana,' and 'the Interior of the Mosque at Brussa.' There is a peculiarity in Mr. Lewis's management of foliage—a certain sharpness and flimsiness of touch, which makes us give the preference to his architectural designs.—Mr. Vivian's *Sketches in Spain*, lithographed by Day & Haghe, and P. Gauci, are worthy to accompany Mr. Lewis's Constantinople, both for the interest which passing events have thrown over subjects in themselves intrinsically beautiful, and for the excellent manner in which they are executed. The work is to be completed in six numbers, each containing four views; those before us are all interesting—the first ('Valencia'), and the third ('Near Bilbao') in particular.—Mr. Nelson has published six large lithographs of one of our beautiful English ruins—*Kirkstall Abbey*—also in the tinted manner; the subjects are excellent, and freely sketched; their execution less perfect than that of the two works just dismissed.—Here, too, are a series of views of *Dudley Castle*, by Cox, Walker, and others, accompanied with illustrative letter-press, and engraved, it would seem, by Radclyffe, of Birmingham. The ruin (for Dudley Castle is a ruin) appears to be picturesque and extensive; but the execution of the plates is below par.

We are inclined to consider each number of Mr. Walker's 'Examples of Gothic Architecture' as distinct; for each is complete in itself, though forming a part of a more comprehensive work. The second number contains twenty-eight plates, illustrating by plans, sections, elevations, details, and a perspective view, *The Manor House and Church at Great Chafeld, Wiltshire*. The plates are fully equal, if not superior, to the former Part, illustrating the Vicar's Close at Wells; and the accompanying descriptive and historical account is curious, minute, and interesting.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

KING'S THEATRE.—Assuredly there has been no lack of variety this season in the entertainments at this theatre. On Tuesday 'Ildegonda,' the music by Mariani, (a composer new to England,) was produced, with but doubtful success. The story is at once hackneyed and improbable. *Ildegonda* (Mad. Grisi), daughter to *Ildebrando* (Lablache), governor of Milan, in the twelfth century, has secretly lost her heart, and plighted her hand, to *Rizzardo*, a young crusader, (Rubini,) in defiance of her father's purpose, that she shall marry *Rogiero* (Tamburini), the defender of Milan. Any child could prophecy

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